

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

Founded in 1889



October 23, 2006

Dear Friends,

We write this letter with many conflicting emotions. Regrettably, there will be a delay in delivery of our *siddur*, *Mishkan T'filah*. While it is only a delay in order to maintain our high standards of print quality, we know that some of you have planned special occasions for introducing and dedicating the prayer book in the immediate future.

What has happened?

This past week, *Mishkan T'filah* came off the press ready for shipment. Our initial excitement quickly dissipated when we saw that almost 100,000 copies of the printed books were far below the expected quality. We felt we had no choice but to stop the printer from shipping the books until they meet our high standards.

The Steering Committee, along with the chairs of the editorial and publishing committees and the book's editor, quickly gathered to remedy the situation.

All of us agreed that we will produce a book that we will be proud to use. Nothing less is acceptable. We all agree that the tangible printed volume must be as beautiful, as fine, and as lasting as the liturgy it conveys.

What we are doing?

A response team to immediately redress this situation has been created by the Steering Committee. The team will be lead by Lance Sussman (newly appointed chair of the publications committee), with the help of Peter Knobel (chair of the editorial committee).

The response team will work with an expert in the field of book print production. Together, they will determine whether we should continue with the present printing company presuming its ability to rectify the problems. They will also look for a publishing project director to see this process through and to oversee a second printing (which is necessary given the overwhelming number of orders for the *siddur*).

We wish that we could tell you when the printing will be properly completed, but it is too early to make any predictions let alone promises. However, we are committed to regularly sharing with you the status of the production process.

All of us look forward to the time when our new prayer book will be complete, and we will be able to celebrate with full hearts the beautiful liturgy *and* the beautiful volume which will be *Mishkan T'filah*.

Shalom uvracha,

Rabbi Harry K. Danziger
President

Rabbi Steven A. Fox
Executive Vice-President